

Kosovo*

(*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.)

Bilateral relations in agriculture



Main Country Indicators 2013

	Kosovo	All Western Balkan countries ¹	EU28
Total area (km ²)	10 887	218 727	4 385 992
Population (million)	1.8	18.2	506.7
Population density (per km ²)	167.5	92.6	120
GDP (current USD)	6.9 billion	94.7 billion	17.3 trillion
GDP per capita (current USD)	3 815	31 036	34 240
GDP growth (% change with previous year)	3	2.3	0.1

Sources: Eurostat, World Bank

¹ The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo

Economic importance of agriculture (2011)

	Kosovo	EU28
Agricultural land (km ²)	5 700 **	1 878 817
Agricultural land as proportion of land area (%)	52.4 **	44.3
Arable land as % of land area	27.6 **	25.6
Permanent cropland (% of land area)	N.A.	2.8
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	4.6 *	5 *
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	14 *	1.6 *

Sources: World Bank * year 2012, ** year 2007

Trade Statistics

EU28 **exports** of agricultural products to Kosovo (2013): EUR 183 million

EU28 **imports** of agricultural products from Kosovo (2013): EUR 16 million

More statistical information

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/kosovo_en.pdf

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Agriculture in Kosovo

Agricultural holdings are very small and mostly semi-subsistent. Average land holding per family is about 3.2 ha, of which on average 1.6 ha is arable land, typically fragmented into 6 to 8 plots. 97% of holdings are less than 5 ha, while there are less than 1% of holdings above 10 ha. Similarly, herd size is small. The majority of agricultural households with cattle have 1-3 cows. Besides being one of the most important sectors of the economy agriculture also provides a social safety net for a large number of poor and elderly people that depend on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. Food expenditure represents a high proportion of total household expenditure.

EU Support for Agricultural reforms in Kosovo

The European Commission accompanies Kosovo's European reform efforts and provides recommendations and help; also on achieving the targets that the Council set out in the European Partnership which includes the following priorities concerning the agricultural sector:

Short term priorities:

1. Determine clear responsibilities within the different services in the agricultural sector (including the veterinary and phytosanitary administration) and their relations with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, local governments and municipal level.

Medium term priorities:

1. Develop a policy and a regulatory framework to support viable land reform. Support the protection of agricultural land against unplanned urban development.
2. Develop a sound forest management structure, particularly in combating illegal logging of forests and fighting against forest fires.
3. Agricultural statistics are also a priority in the statistics sector.

EU-Kosovo relations

Kosovo participates in the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) and is a beneficiary of the Autonomous Trade Measures. Yearly sectoral meetings are held between Kosovo and the EC under the SAP Dialogue. The negotiations of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between the European Union and Kosovo started in Pristina on 28th October 2013. The SAA represents the first comprehensive contractual relationship between Kosovo and the EU and an important milestone in Kosovo's European integration process.



Through the implementation of the agreement the EU and Kosovo shall gradually establish a bilateral free trade area where free movement of goods, services and capital are mutually guaranteed. Kosovo shall align its legislation with EU rules regarding competition, public procurement, intellectual and industrial property rights, consumer protection and working conditions. The Parties will also cooperate in number of areas such as social affairs, education, culture, environment and others.

Kosovo will be assisted by the new Instrument of Pre-accession (IPA II) 2014-2020.

Prepared in partnership with the beneficiaries, IPA II sets a new framework for providing pre-accession assistance for the period 2014-2020.

Its strategic focus is provided through the Country Strategy Papers, which are specific strategic planning documents made for each beneficiary for a 7-year period. These will provide for a stronger ownership by the beneficiaries through integrating their own reform and development agendas. Moreover, a Multi-Country Strategy Paper will address priorities for regional cooperation or territorial cooperation.

IPA II targets reforms within the framework of pre-defined sectors, allows for a more systematic use of sector budget support and gives more weight to performance measurement.

Kosovo is, also, making an intensive use of TAIEX assistance in the field of agriculture.

General information about EU-trade with Western Balkans can be found here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/regions/western-balkans/>